

**Meeting of the
WORKFORCE DEVELOPMENT COUNCIL
Tuesday, February 11, 9:00 a.m.
830 Punchbowl Street, Rm. 310
Honolulu HI 96813**

Members Present

Vaughn Baker (for MRC Greenwood), Darwin Ching, Allen Chung, Michael Gleason (HIWIB Chair), Signe Godfrey, Carl Hinson, Joann Inamasu (for Maui County Mayor), Carla Kurokawa, Steven Lee (for Ted Liu), Steve Lupkes (KWIB Chair), Deborah Kim Morikawa (for Honolulu Mayor), Ron Nelson (MCWIB Chair), Henry Oliva (for Lillian Koeller), Jeffrey Piontek, Norman Sakamoto, Marcia Taira, Jim Tollefson (OWIB Chair), Gregg Yamanaka.

Other Attendees

Stanford Fichtman (WDC), James Hardway (WDC), Carol Kanayama (WDD), Ryan Markham, Marilyn Matsunaga, Jan Miyamoto, Susan Miller (Center for Disability Studies/Hire Abilities), Kathleen Nielsen (Hawaii County OHCD), Anna Powell (WDC), Ryan Tanaka (State Office of Career and Technical Education).

Call to Order

Chair Gregg Yamanaka called the meeting to order at 9:20 a.m.

Public Input on Agenda

There was no public input.

Approval of the December 1, 2009 Minutes

Jonathan Chun made the motion and Signe Godfrey seconded to amend the December 1, 2009 WDC minutes to add the names of the Kauai participants who attended by phone conference (Jonathan Chun, Steve Lupkes, Randall Francisco, Jan Miyamoto). Motion passed by unanimous vote.

Q&A on LWIB, WDD, and WDC Staff Reports

Chair Gregg Yamanaka noted that the LWIB Reed Act Final Reports have been filed with the WDC and will be included in the WDC Annual Report.

Introduction of New Members

Chair Yamanaka introduced and welcomed new Council members Steve Lupkes (new Kauai WIB Chair) and Ron Nelson (new Maui WIB Chair).

Presentations

1. “Business Leadership Network”

Susan Miller from Hire Abilities Hawaii provided an overview of the Medicaid Infrastructure Grant (“MIG”) process and efforts in the state to employ persons with disabilities. There are two more years of the MIG. WDC member Mike Gleason will work with Susan Miller regarding a statewide Business Leadership network in Hawaii and report at the next WDC meeting. Jonathan Chun will chair a task force on this topic after Allen Chung’s committee forms the requisite Permitted Interaction Group.

2. “2010 Legislative Agenda”

James Hardway gave a brief overview of the Reed Act and the pending bill in the State Legislature to appropriate additional Reed Act funds for disbursement to LWIBs for programs that aid jobseekers and employers, and strengthen the workforce development system. Mr. Hardway asked the WDC members to establish a position on the Reed Act funding bill currently in the Legislature.

Action: Marcia Taira made the motion and Signe Godfrey seconded that “while the WDC supports the intent of the Reed Act funding bill to support workforce development, the members do not support the passage.” There was further discussion and Ms. Taira withdrew her motion and replaced it with a new motion, “The WDC does not support funding new Reed Act programs from the UI Trust Fund, but does encourage seeking other sources of funding for these workforce development initiatives.” The primary reason for the motion was cited as seeking to prevent more draw-down of the Trust Fund with the current high unemployment.

Vote: Ayes— Baker, Ching, Chung, Godfrey, Hinson, Kurokawa, Lee, Lupkes, Morikawa, Oliva, Piontek, Sakamoto, Taira, Tollefson, Yamanaka.
Nays—Inamasu, Nelson, Gleason

3. “LMI and State Energy Sector Partnership (“SESP”) Updates”

Mr. Hardway gave a brief update on the two competitive federal grants received by DLIR. Three LMI staff will be hired shortly to begin grant implementation. The WDC is awaiting documents for the SESP and will begin implementation as the lead agency when the documents are received.

4. “New DLIR Program: Volunteer Internship Program”

WDD Administrator Elaine Young announced the launch of this new program, which offers UI claimants the opportunity to volunteer for an internship of 32 hours per week for up to eight weeks, with the goal to help the interns gain new skills. In the first week nearly 50 UI claimants signed up. The DLIR is currently soliciting employers; those interested can contact Elaine Young or Carole Kanayama. DHS Deputy Director and WDC member Henry Oliva noted that the SEE program subsidizes TANF recipients who work with approved employers for up to one year.

5. “Career and Technical Education”

Ryan Tanaka from the State Office of Career and Technical Education (“CTE”) gave a brief overview of the programs funded by the Carl D. Perkins Career and Technical Education Improvement Act of 2006. CTE funds programs of the Department of Education and the University of Hawaii System for both education and workforce development.

Action Items

There were no actions taken. The WDC is not required to approve the LWIB Reed Act Final Reports and the Education and Training Coordinating Committee will meet the convene a Permitted Interaction Group in order to investigate specific issues.

New Business and Announcements

None.

Adjournment

The meeting was adjourned at 12:00 pm.

The next regular meeting of the WDC will be held on Thursday, May 13, 2010 from 9:00 am to 12 noon. Location TBD.